

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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Legislative Counsel

Mr. Frank C. Conahan  
Associate Director  
International Division  
General Accounting Office  
Washington, D.C. 20548

*pkg filed*  
*GAO*  
*Pubs*

Dear Mr. Conahan:

This is in regard to your letter of 24 October 1978 requesting information as to the extent of the Agency's research on the Soviet Union. The scope of our response was discussed with Mr. Joseph Frumkin, staff assistant to Senator H. John Heinz III on whose behalf your inquiry is being conducted. Mr. Frumkin expressed assurance that the information herein provided will satisfy Senator Heinz's requirements as concerns the Central Intelligence Agency.

Senior Government policymakers have jointly enumerated the intelligence matters of particular concern to them, and the various agencies of the Intelligence Community are charged with ensuring that their research is responsive to these concerns. The CIA's National Foreign Assessment Center (NFAC) has made a vigorous and concerted effort to do so with regard to its own research on the Soviet Union and has maintained contact with other agencies with a view toward eliminating duplication of effort and filling gaps in Community research. The interagency intelligence production programs developed by National Intelligence Officers annually and aperiodically provide one means of coordinating Community research and analysis on the Soviet Union. It should be noted, however, that the intelligence components of the Department of Defense and Department of State also have research and analysis programs responsive to specific departmental needs. These agencies do not submit their production programs to CIA for review.

CIA-produced finished intelligence that appears in Community products (such as National Intelligence Estimates, Interagency Intelligence Memoranda, and the National Intelligence Daily) is coordinated with all members of the Intelligence Community within the limits imposed by timeliness. Dissenting views are clearly set forth. In addition, some finished intelligence is the joint product of CIA and one or more other members of the Community. A large research program may also be apportioned out among Community agencies as appropriate.

MOR/CDF

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**